



FLASHPOINT

The Lynchburg Fire & EMS Official Newsletter

Chief's Corner

Multiple Personalities and the Fire Service

Lately, I have a hard time deciding if I am an "us" or a "them." You know what I am talking about, when you're sitting around the kitchen table talking about administration, the Senior Staff, or me. In that situation I think I am a "them." Funny though, sometimes when I am talking about line folks you are the "them."

I guess what I am having a hard time trying to figure out is how we can both be called "them" but somehow remain different people. I know this sounds a little like the Abbott and Costello "Whose on First" comedy routine, but I guess that is the point.

The problem is, it's not very funny and, in a way, is somewhat unhealthy for the same organization to refer to itself as "us and them." Let's take a look at a few of the problems this type of language causes the organization.

There are many different jobs in this department that all have very specific functions. Like players on a team, if one person doesn't fulfill their role, the success of the team may suffer. For instance, if I spend all of my time on the line operating the system as one of "them" (should be read as you) then I won't be fulfilling my responsibility to provide vision and strategic direction for the organization. Likewise, I need you, (could be read as them) the folks operating the system, to provide great service to our customers.

We probably shouldn't fret too much about this situation because organizations have been dealing with it since the beginning of time. There are a few things I think we can do, however, to minimize the divisiveness that this type of talk brings to our organization.

It would help if we all look for the situations where we refer to each other as "them" or we refer to ourselves as "us." If we listen to each other and then question in what context this language is occurring, it will go a long way in helping us realize why it happens. Do the two parties differ in their view of a situation, or do they have different roles in the situation?

I believe that understanding our individual roles in the system and what value these roles bring to the table is critical. We need to be tolerant with each other and help each other learn about things we don't understand and what our individual responsibilities are. For instance, if one of our work processes is cumbersome and inhibits your ability to provide great service, then you need to tell me. Don't take for granted that I should know everything. The nature of my job responsibilities does not lend itself to me knowing everything that is going on in your job.

That leads into communications as a tool to help with this "us and them" problem. We have invested a tremendous amount of energy and resources into making sure we can communicate with each other. The amount of time and money is all for naught if we don't make the effort to put good information into the system.

Maybe the most important thing we can do is develop and maintain a constructive relationship with each other. Feeling free to express ourselves and to give and receive advice is an invaluable tool. It is the foundation established so that when we need support and help we can ask for it without fear, retribution, or ridicule.

Finally, another thing we can do is trust each other. I am speaking of a trust that says that we are committed to doing the right thing and believing that, in the end, we are all trying to do the right thing; provide a great service to the public. You know what I think; the us's and the them's are the same folks after all.

Until next time. Stay safe.

B. J. J. J.

Fire Marshal Completes Training



On November 15, 2002, Battalion Chief Robert Douglas DeJarnette graduated from the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy.

The Law Enforcement for Fire Marshals curriculum includes: History and Role of Law Enforcement; Ethics; Criminal Law; Juvenile Law; Laws of Arrest; Right of Entry; Search and Seizure; Rules of Evidence; Use of Force; Sex Crimes; Civil Liability; Fraud Investigations; Confrontation Control/Crisis Management; Survival Training; Firearms Qualifications; Felony Stops; Warrant Service; Environmental Crimes; Domestic Violence; TDO and Altered Mental Status; Surveillance; Drugs and Narcotics; and Major Case Investigations.

This Program is administered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

In addition, Chief DeJarnette has also completed the Fire Investigator 1003 and Fire Inspector 1031 programs and is a fully sworn law enforcement officer.

Battalion Chief DeJarnette is currently the Chief Fire Marshal for the City of Lynchburg, responsible for investigating all fires and explosions in the City of Lynchburg as well as enforcing the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

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Certifications & Development

Aircraft Rescue Firefighting NFPA 1003-2000

Mike Reeves Richard Ware

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

Ben Barber	Troy Burns	Derrick Carwile
Eddie Campbell	Ronnie Coleman	Todd Davis
Lee Day	Ed Fletcher	Robert Hamilton
Steve Jackson	Matt O'Daniel	Tim Pickle
Barney Roakes	Mike Smith	Tim Staton
Jack Williams	Cary Word	

Law Enforcement for Fire Marshals; Team Leader for Virginia Fire Marshal Academy; and Chemical Defensive Weapons - OC

Personal Defense Spray

Robert DeJarnette

Class Act Awards

Following are the November 2002 Class Act Awards.

- **Mike Reeves and Mike Bomar**
For assistance with Lowe's Home Improvement's Annual Child Safety Awareness Day.
- **Tom Bartell**
For outstanding representation of the department during a presentation regarding AEDs in the workplace.
- **Jonathan Simms**
For assisting the department in obtaining a \$1,200 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase CPR mannequins.
- **Station 3 - A Shift, Skip Ritzman, and Tammy Sage**
For assisting with fundraising efforts by coordinating a "fill-the-boot" campaign at River Ridge Mall.
- **Tammy Sage**
For assistance with the departmental awards ceremony.
- **Joe Bennett**
For outstanding representation of the department during an assembly on September 11th.



Safety Corner

Electrical Hazards-Downed Wires

It is not unusual for us to receive a call for downed power lines that resulted from an accident involving a power pole, or due to wind, ice or snow.

The voltage of distribution lines in Lynchburg can range from 120/240 volts to 34,500 volts. Under normal circumstances, fire personnel should not approach downed wires and should wait for the power company to arrive. Also, firefighters should not look at the arc of shorting wires. These arcs are similar to, but larger than, welding arcs and can cause serious eye damage or blindness.

While waiting for the power company, you should establish a danger zone and cordon off an area one pole on either side of the downed line and keep everyone out. The only time it would be necessary to attempt to move a downed line would be to save a life, and this should be done with the proper equipment and training. Remember, electrical emergencies are better left to trained professionals from the power company who are familiar with the equipment.

Stay Safe,
Rick



2003 Class Schedule

You must complete a training request form at least 30 days in advance if you are requesting the department to pay for your class and/or provide you with time off on your shift.

Once your training request is approved, you must register and bring an invoice for payment to the Training Division at least 30 days in advance or you must pay for the class out-of-pocket, and submit a request for reimbursement once you have completed the class.

ACLS Classes-Lynchburg General Hospital

Instructor Class-April 18th (time TBA)

One-day provider classes

March 14 th	7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 12 th	7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Oct. 25 th	7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Two-day provider classes

June 13 th	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
June 14 th	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dec. 12 th	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Dec. 13 th	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PALS classes-Lynchburg General Hospital

One-day provider classes

April 5 th	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sept. 6 th	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Two-day provider classes

March 7 th	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
March 8 th	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 30 th	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
May 31 st	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

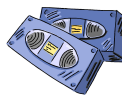
Oct. 17 th	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Oct. 18 th	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The department will pay for the class and the book for ACLS and PALS classes. You will be able to attend these classes while on duty, if possible.

Intubation Lab - VA Baptist Hospital

(This class will be scheduled on shift)

April 10 th	(B Shift)	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May 15 th	(A Shift)	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 18 th	(A Shift)	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Nov. 13 th	(C Shift)	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



EMSAT Video

The latest EMSAT Video Series is now available in the Training Division. This month's featured video is a two-part video entitled, "Vehicle Extrication Part 1 & 2." This video will give you up-to-date information on newer model vehicles and will provide you with imperative information you should know when a person is trapped in a vehicle.

December Anniversaries

Gary Regan	32 years	Jimmy Carr	29 years
Dennis Duff	27 years	Jimmy Bowen	25 years
Mike Bomar	25 years	Tom Sheppard	25 years
Mike Barney	22 years	Doug DeJarnette	22 years
Preston Crawford	18 years	Eugene Penick	14 years
Wayne Casto	7 years		